

**● PRINTER RUSH ●**  
(PTO ASSISTANCE)

Application : 09/412178

Examiner : Tieu

GAU : 2643

From: JBlach

Location: (IDC) FMF FDC

Date: 11/14/04

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DOC CODE	DOC DATE	MISCELLANEOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> 1449		<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Data
<input type="checkbox"/> IDS		<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> CLM		<input type="checkbox"/> Document Legibility
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<input type="checkbox"/> SRFW		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> DRW		<u>Abstract</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> OATH		
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<input type="checkbox"/> SPEC		

**[RUSH] MESSAGE:**

Please shorten abstract, in light of MPEP 608.01(c), paragraph entitled (language and format).

Thank you!

**[XRUSH] RESPONSE:**

PLEASE SEE THE NEW ABSTRACT, THANKS.

Ex. Tieu

A.U. 2643

**INITIALS:**

NOTE: This form will be included as part of the official USPTO record, with the Response document coded as XRUSH.

REV 10/04

O.K. to enter 1  
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*New Abstract*

In a first embodiment of the invention, a method of providing a visual message waiting indicator signal to an off-hook telephone includes the step of receiving a voicemail message at a central location, and also includes the step of sending a visual message waiting indicator signal from the central location and destined for the off-hook telephone. In an alternative embodiment, a method of receiving a visual message waiting indicator signal in an off-hook telephone includes the steps of being in an off-hook condition, and receiving a visual message waiting indicator signal. This method may further include the step of displaying a visual message-waiting indicator based on the received visual message waiting indicator signal. This method may also include the step of receiving an alert signal, and the step of transmitting an acknowledgement signal in response to the alert signal. In another alternative embodiment, a telephone includes a visual message waiting indicator, and an interface unit adapted to couple the telephone to a network, such that the telephone is in an off-hook condition when coupled to the network and engaged in a communication activity, and is in an on-hook condition when coupled to the network and not engaged in a communication activity, wherein the interface unit is adapted to receive a visual message waiting indicator signal when in the off-hook condition.